

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01907 110556Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8095
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 125
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 1907

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA ONE LINE ONE WORD TEN:
JULY VICE JUNE)

EO 11652: GDS
SECRET

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TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, UNSC, PINT, LE, IS, SY
SUBJECT: LEBANON: EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS

REFS: (A) STATE 171142, (B) STATE 172481

1. I CALLED ON UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI MORNING JULY 9 TO
REVIEW WHAT USG HAS BEEN DOING IN LEBANON TO HELP DEFUSE

SITUATION, DRAWING HEAVILY ON INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF B. SUWAIDI WAS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR ASSESSMENT AND VIEWS, STATING THAT UAE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITHOWN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS THAT HAS HAD LITTLE TIME TO DEVOTE TO LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. SUWAIDI'S RESPONSE AT CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATION WAS THAT UAE SHARES U.S. VIEW OF IMPORTANCE IN ACHIEVING CEASEFIRE AND ENCOURAGING PRESIDENT SARKIS TO REMAIN. UAE HAS HAD NO CONTACTS WITH CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS BUT IT DOES HAVE GOOD CONTACTS WITH SYRIANS AND WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. SUWAIDI SAID HE WOULD DRAFT A MESSAGE TO SHOW TO UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID TO SEND TO PRESIDENT SARKIS IN WHICH ZAYID WOULD EXPRESS HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SARKIS AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE. HE WOULD ALSO LET SYRAINS KNOW IF MESSAGE IS SENT AND URGE THAT SYRIANS EXERCISE RESTRAINT EVEN THOUGH CEASEFIRE IMPERFECT.

3. SUWAIDI THEN WONDERED WHAT OTHER STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PHALANGE HAD SUGGESTED AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE, PRESUMABLY UNDER UN AUSPICES, TO TAKE OVER PEACE-KEEPING ROLE THROUGHOUT LEBANON. SUWAIDI DID NOT SEE HOW THIS COULD WORK EVEN IF SYRIANS WANTED TO LEAVE LEBANON. HE SAID EVEN IF INTERNATIONAL FORCE WERE EMPLACED IN LEBANON, HE DID NOT BELIEVE PHALANGE WOULD GIVE UP ITS ARMS. HE INQUIRED ABOUT THE DEGREE OF SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT
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SARKIS. I SAID THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW, IT WAS FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL. HE ASKED WHETHER THE SYRAINS MIGHT DECIDE TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES, LEAVING LEBANON TO ITSELF. WHAT WOULD BE OUR VIEW OF THIS? I SAID THAT I FELT USG WOULD CONTINUE TO WANT PRESENCE OF ADF AS LONG AS LEBANESE GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN SECURITY AND DEFENSE FORCES. I HOPED UAE WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MANPOWER AND FINANCE TO ADF.

4. COMMENT: SUWAIDI OBVIOUSLY IS CONCERNED THAT IF SITUATION CONTINUES, PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT ASSAD MAY MULTIPLY WHICH COULD CAUSE VIOLENT, COMMUNIST LED, CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN SYRIA UNLESS ASSAD CHOSE TO CUT BACK SYRIA'S EXPOSURE IN LEBANON. SUWAIDI NO DOUBT ALSO FEARS THAT UNEXPECTED OR PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS FROM LEBANON, WOULD LEAVE OTHER ADF ELEMENTS INCLUDING SMALL UAE FORCE, IN VERY EXPOSED POSITION.
DICKMAN

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NNN

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